

**BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2010 MINUTES
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
101 Washington Avenue
7:30 PM Executive Closed Session/8:00 pm Work Session**

1. Opening of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Birkner at 7:30 pm. Mayor Birkner then read the Open Public Meetings Law Statement: "This meeting which conforms with the Open Public Meetings law, Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975, is a regular Borough Council meeting. Notices have been filed with our local official newspapers and posted on the municipal bulletin board."

2. Roll Call:

Mayor Birkner – Present
Councilmember Grefrath - Absent
Councilmember Phayre - Present
Councilmember Quinn - Present
Councilmember Sciara - Present
Councilmember Waneck - Present
Council President Miller - Present
Borough Mr. Hoffmann - Present
Borough Attorney Huntington - Present
Borough Clerk Hughes - Present

Committee Assignments:

Finance, Administration & Capital Projects
Public Properties
Health & Recreation
Fire & Ambulance
Land Use
Police & OEM

3. Executive Closed Session:

RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Westwood shall convene in Executive Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

Personnel Matters
Pending/Potential Litigation
Attorney's Report

Said discussions are deemed legally confidential pursuant to NJSA 10:4-12(b)

- (7) Litigation or contract negotiation, attorney/client
- (8) Employment matters

The Clerk is directed to keep separate minutes of the meeting which shall be made public Once that matter has been resolved.

Motion to enter Closed Session with the intention to reconvene in Open Session: Councilmember Sciara
Second: Council President Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent
Councilmember Phayre - Yes
Councilmember Quinn - Yes
Councilmember Sciara – Yes
Councilmember Waneck - Yes
Council President Miller – Yes

4. Reopen the Meeting:

Motion to reopen the meeting: Council President Miller

Second: Councilmember Sciara

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

The time was 8:10 pm.

5. Roll Call II:

Mayor Birkner – Present
Councilmember Grefrath - Absent
Councilmember Phayre - Present
Councilmember Quinn – Present
Councilmember Sciara - Present
Councilmember Waneck - Present
Council President Miller - Present
Borough Mr. Hoffmann - Present
Borough Attorney Huntington - Present
Borough Engineer Boswell - Present
Borough Clerk Hughes – Present

6. Flag Salute

Council President Miller gave the invocation. Mayor Birkner led those present in the salute to the flag.

7. 2010 Municipal Budget

a) Hearing on Introduced 2010 Municipal Budget

Councilmember Phayre pointed out the highlights of the 2010 budget. He thanked everyone involved in the process. CFO Raymond Herr discussed details of the budget. Auditor Gary Vinci reviewed the Borough's financial standing in light of the recent bond rating increase to AA.

Motion to Open Hearing on Introduced 2010 Municipal Budget: Councilmember Phayre
Second: Councilmember Sciara

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

John Clark, 71 Harrington Avenue – commented that while a \$27 average municipal increase is great, what about the taxes. Mayor Birkner explained the County and School taxes are the other two components of a resident's tax bill. Mr. Vinci stated the school taxes will see an average of \$370 increase. Mayor Birkner informed the County budget has not passed as of this date. Mr. Clark opined that the Governing Body is doing its job but the School Board isn't. Mayor Birkner stated this is a good example of what a value the municipal portion of the tax bill is for services received and also felt it was a testament to the employees and professionals who come in "with sharp pencils, keen eyes and thought for rate payers". Mayor Birkner interjected that the school budget is vastly greater than the municipal budget and assured that the Board of Education welcomes resident participation.

Motion to Close Hearing on Introduced 2010 Municipal Budget: Councilmember Phayre
Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

b) Ordinance #10-6 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits to Establish a Cap Bank

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #10-6 entitled “An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits to Establish a Cap Bank”, having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Phayre Second: Councilmember Waneck
Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes
Councilmember Quinn - Yes
Councilmember Sciara - Yes
Councilmember Waneck - Yes
Council President Miller – Yes

Mr. Herr explained the 2.5% appropriations cap. This ordinance allows the Borough to raise the cap to 3.5%, establishing a bank which gives the Borough leverage in the future. This does not raise taxes.

Public Comments:

No comments.

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Phayre
Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #10-6 be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Adoption of said Ordinance be published in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Phayre Second: Councilmember Sciara

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes
Councilmember Quinn - Yes
Councilmember Sciara - Yes
Councilmember Waneck - Yes
Council President Miller – Yes

c) Resolution #10 - 144: Amendment to 2010 Municipal Budget

Councilmember Phayre explained that the amendment includes grants that the Borough has been awarded that were not in the original budget. There are also two other minor changes. This

amendment does not affect the tax rate at all.

Motion to Open Hearing on Amended 2010 Municipal Budget: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Councilmember Quinn

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative

No member of the public wished to be heard regarding the Amended 2010 Municipal Budget

Motion to Close Hearing on Amended 2010 Municipal Budget: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Councilmember Quinn

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

Motion to adopt Resolution #10-144: Councilmember Phayre Second: Councilmember Quinn

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

d) Resolution #10 - 145: Budget Self Examination for 2010

Motion to adopt Resolution #10-145: Councilmember Phayre Second: Councilmember Quinn

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

e) Resolution #10- 146: Adoption of 2010 Municipal Budget

Motion to adopt Resolution #10-146: Councilmember Phayre Second: Councilmember Quinn

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

Mayor Birkner commended the Governing Body and Finance Committee for a great job.

8. Proclamation Honoring Retiring Borough Employee Willie Asbury

DPW Foreman Willie Asbury was presented with a proclamation honoring his 41 years of service to the Borough of Westwood.

9. Community Service Awards

Presented by Mayor Birkner and the various Council liaisons to individuals who were nominated by their organizations for outstanding volunteer service to the community.

10. National Preservation Month Proclamation

11. Approval of Minutes: Closed Sessions for 2/16, 3/2, 3/16, 3/30, 4/13; Public Meeting 2/16

Approval of Minutes: Closed Sessions

Councilmember Phayre presented the Closed Session Minutes for the February 16th, March 2nd, March 16th, March 30th, and April 13th meetings.

Motion to adopt the closed session minutes: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Council President Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

Approval of Minutes: February 16th Public Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Phayre presented the minutes of the February 16th Mayor and Council Public meeting for consideration.

Motion to adopt the closed and Public session minutes of February 16th: Councilmember Phayre Second: Council President Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

12. Resolution #10-147: Appointment of Police Reserves

Motion to adopt Resolution #10-147: Council President Miller Second: Councilmember Sciara

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes
Councilmember Waneck - Yes
Council President Miller – Yes

Mayor Birkner administered the Oath of Office to Brian Considine and Kenroy Morrison.

13. Reports of Committees and Officials:

A) Mayor's Report

1) Westvale Park

Mayor Birkner advised that a preconstruction meeting was held on May 17, 2010 with Municipal representatives, Boswell Engineering and Let It Grow, Inc. He stated the work was scheduled to begin immediately but due to legal action filed by one of the bidders the work will have to wait until after the June 2, 2010 court date. At that time, a decision will be rendered, which will allow the work to proceed. Mayor Birkner feels a favorable decision is anticipated and the work should commence immediately thereafter. Let It Grow, Inc. has assured the Borough that the completion date will not be compromised by this delay and that a possibility still exists that an earlier court date may be given.

Mayor Birkner also informed that on May 17, 2010 he had a conversation with Bruce Bechtloff of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program regarding the grant award for the completion of Westvale Park through the Green Acres Program. Mr. Bechtloff confirmed the project has been approved and funding was appropriated and allocated on November of 2009. Mr. Bechtloff also informed Mayor Birkner that the approvals are in place along with the management agreement between the county and the borough. The next step is for the project agreement to be completed between the county and the state. At this time, the County is in the process of updating their Recreation Open Space Inventory to include all parks and easements in the county. The inventory is substantial but is expected to be completed between June 10th and 14th. Mayor Birkner stated that at the end of June the Green Acres Project Agreement will be submitted for execution by the county. An account will then be set up in August by the State of New Jersey and the Borough will simply submit development payment requests to withdraw monies as the project progresses. Mr. Bechtloff also confirmed that the Borough is approved for 25% of the project costs which would increase our Green Acres funding amount to possibly \$682,500 as oppose to \$500,000. The Open Space Grant funding from Bergen County was voted on April 21, 2010 as previously reported by the County Freeholder Board and that funding in the amount of \$325,215.00 is available to commence with the project and utilize as we need moving forward. Coupled with the County Open Space Grant received and the Green Acres funding that we will be receiving, our grant funding for this project will now be over 1 million dollars. Mayor Birkner said the Borough is very pleased to get that news from Green Acres yesterday.

2) Train Signalization

Mayor Birkner informed that the County engineering department has provided him with the revised plans for the three major intersections; Broadway and Irvington, Broadway and Westwood Avenue and Broadway, Jefferson Avenue and Park Avenue. A meeting had been previously scheduled between the Borough, Boswell Engineering, NJDOT, the County Engineers and New Jersey Transit. A second meeting is scheduled with all the committees to review the revised plans. If the council approves all the recommendations the council can then make an official recommendation to proceed. The timeline for this project to start will still remain as early winter of 2011.

3) Waterways Task Force

Mayor Birkner advised that a joint meeting with the Pascack Valley Administrators and the Public Works Superintendents was held on May 6, 2010 to discuss and develop a plan for regional stream cleaning within the Pascack Valley. The meeting was held at the United Water offices. A preliminary scope and schedule report has been prepared by the United Water engineers for United Water. Also participating were the environmental groups, Bergen Swan and the Hackensack River Keeper. This will advance the initiative of the Pascack Valley municipalities to find a solution for easing the flooding burdens of residents during storm events. The Administrators will now be meeting to further the progress and follow up the directives from that meeting. Mayor Birkner asked Mr. Hoffmann for an update on the scheduling of the meetings. Mr. Hoffmann informed that the next meeting had been scheduled for June but that the subcommittee has met with the engineers and they will be providing an update at that meeting.

4) Pascack Brook Sewer Pipe

Mayor Birkner reported that the Pascack Brook sewer pipe preconstruction meeting was held two weeks ago with representatives NJDEP, Boswell Engineering, BCUA, Hutton Construction, the DPW, Borough Administrator and the Councilmembers. The field plans have been submitted to Boswell Engineering with a work start date of June 10, 2011 and the expectation that the work will take 60-90 days.

B) Engineer's Report

1) Bi-weekly Report

Dr. Boswell reviewed the biweekly report, a copy of which is attached.

2) Westvale Park

The Westvale court date is scheduled for June 2, 2010. Dr. Boswell stated he did get a firm commitment at the preconstruction meeting from the contractor that the work will be completed on time even if the work commences by June 15, 2010.

3) Train Signalization

Dr. Boswell will have the plans for the signalization once they are approved. Councilmember Waneck asked Dr. Boswell if he could provide a reduction of the revised plans for the intersection work. Mrs. Hughes will be provided with the copy of the plans that Mayor Birkner received and will be available for review. Ms. Hughes was also asked to scan the document and change it to a PDF. Dr. Boswell said that a change in the radius was noted on First and Park.

C) Council Liaison & Committee Reports

1) Finance, Administration and Capital Projects:

No report.

2) Police and OEM:

a) Police Update

Councilmember Miller reported that the Police Department Click It or Ticket program will begin May 24, 2010 and finish June 6, 2010.

b) Evidence Storage Shed

Councilmember Miller informed the accreditation process is moving forward and there are expectations that an onsite review will take place in September as scheduled. One of the items need to be addressed is the evidence storage shed which will allow all the evidence to be in one central location under the watch of the Police Department. The original proposal was for a POD to be placed at Borough Hall by the side of the building.

However, the Governing Body felt it was inappropriate based on the ordinance prohibiting PODs from being placed for an extended period of time at any site. Captain Durante has researched and identified three possibilities which he detailed in his report.

Councilmember Miller informed that while he recognizes that this matter is not usually a public session matter, time is of essence, and therefore asked for some consideration.

The Governing Body discussed the details of the shed, which will have one entrance and an interior door for extra security. It will be under camera surveillance. Mayor Birkner asked if the shed required any type of fire suppression system due to the fact that it will be storing evidence. Councilmember Miller responded that he was unaware of any safety requirements. Councilmember Phayre informed that he and the Construction Official had examined the facility and were both comfortable with all aspects of the project so far.

3) Fire and Ambulance:

a) Emergency Services Update

Councilmember Sciara reported that a joint Fire Department training was attended by both the Westwood Fire Department and the Hillsdale Fire Department in Bergenfield.

The Volunteer Ambulance Corp is working on their annual Summer Carnival.

Mayor Birkner reported on a motorcycle accident which occurred over the weekend. The motorcycle was hit head on by a vehicle that was turning onto its lane. A Westwood patrol car equipped with cameras was behind the vehicle and was able to record the events as they were occurring. Mayor Birkner commend the Police Officer in the patrol car as well as all those who responded to the call for their professionalism, and their skill in the manner in which they cared for the victim, whom sustained very serious injuries.

4) Public Properties:

Councilmember Phayre reminded everyone that motorcycle riding season is upon us and suggest that all use caution. Councilmembers Phayre and Sciara discussed the type of recording systems found in the Westwood Police vehicles.

5) Land Use:

a) Environmental Committee Update

Councilmember Waneck reported that the Environmental Committee will be giving out their logo bags at The Westwood Pride Day to residents who are willing to pledge to five energy efficient initiatives. The Environmental Committee will be starting a database which will contain the name of address of those residents who pledge. This program will provide credits towards the Borough's Sustainable New Jersey goal. Councilmember Waneck also informed that she will be speaking with Mr. Hoffmann regarding the possibility of extending this program to the Green Team and municipal employees.

Councilmember Waneck mentioned that she had discussed the regional stream cleaning program with the Environmental Committee. The Committee is focusing on capturing water in rain barrels or similar methods.

6) Health and Recreation:

a) Westwood Pride Day

Councilmember Quinn informed everyone that during Pride Day the Governing Body will also be in attendance at a "Meet and Greet". The Governing Body will be handing out something that is going to be useful throughout the year.

b) Library Update

Councilmember Quinn reminded everyone that a "Taste of Westwood" fundraiser is being held by the Library in conjunction with the Westwood Chamber of Commerce in June.

c) Recreation Update

Councilmember Quinn reported that since the inception of electronic Recreation registration the Recreation Department has had 75 residents register online for their programs. This is 40% of their usual summer registration.

Councilmember Quinn would like everyone to keep a look out for the online listing of the concerts and movies in Park scheduled by the Recreation Department.

d) Memorial Benches

Councilmember Quinn advised that the Memorial Bench project has some policy issues that need to be discussed but will soon be underway. A flyer will be created and distributed. Policy issues will be discussed at the June work session. Councilmember Phayre noted that the recycling containers have been placed in Veteran's Park.

e) Memorial Day Parade

Councilmember Sciara reminded everyone about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

D) Attorney's Report –

No Report.

E) Administrator's / Clerk's Report

No Report.

14. Agenda/Public Forum:

Motion to open the Agenda/Public Forum: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the Affirmative.

John Clark, 71 Harrington Avenue - complimented everyone on their professional attire and commented on the amount of time they dedicate to their positions.

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

15. Ordinances of First & Final Reading:

Ordinances For Introduction

10-11 An Ordinance To Establish A Schedule Of Salaries, Wages And Compensation Of The Public Officials, Officers And Employees Of The Borough Of Westwood In The County Of Bergen, And To Establish A Method Of Payment Of Such Compensation During Calendar Year 2010

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #10-11 entitled "An Ordinance To Establish A Schedule Of Salaries, Wages And Compensation Of The Public Officials, Officers And Employees Of The Borough Of Westwood In The County Of Bergen, And To Establish A Method Of Payment Of Such Compensation During Calendar Year 2010" is hereby introduced by title; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to advertise said ordinance with an June 15, 2010 hearing date in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion to pass the ordinance on First Reading: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Council President Miller

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

Ordinances on Final Hearing

10-9 An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey Providing For The Monitoring Of Landfill Emissions For The Borough, And Appropriating \$60,000 Therefor From The Borough's Capital Improvement Fund

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #10-9 entitled "An Ordinance Of The Borough Of Westwood, In The County Of Bergen, New Jersey Providing For The Monitoring Of Landfill Emissions For The Borough, And Appropriating \$60,000 Therefor From The Borough's Capital Improvement Fund", having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Councilmember Waneck

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

Public Comments:

No comments.

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #10-9 be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Adoption of said Ordinance be published in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Councilmember Quinn

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

10-10 An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 65C-121 Of The Borough Code, Said Ordinance Being Entitled “Wireless Telecommunications, Towers And Antennas”

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance #10-10 entitled “An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 65C-121 Of The Borough Code, Said Ordinance Being Entitled “Wireless Telecommunications, Towers And Antennas””, having hereby been read by title, shall have a hearing held on this date.

Motion to open the public hearing: Councilmember Waneck

Second: Councilmember Quinn

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

Bruce Meisel, 263 Center Avenue–stated that cell towers in the wrong place can have a negative impact on the quality of life, while in the right place they can enhance the quality of life and add fees which will increase the Borough’s budget. Mr. Miesel feels that this ordinance corrects minor inconsistencies and creates a process for applicants to know what to do and what is expected. It gives them an idea of what they need to prove before locating a cell tower on a private location instead of a public facility. Mr. Meisel feels that this ordinance benefits the entire Borough, and while he feels that it is not “sexy” like the Westvale ordinance it will help the community as a whole and is a step in the right direction.

Mayor Birkner thanked Mr. Meisel for his support. He informed that the fees generated by the location of the cell tower on Borough property would be “fee based” not “tax based” and therefore the total fee would go directly to the municipality. The fee would also not have to be shared with the local school system or the county.

John Lamb, Beattie Padovano, LLC - stated that the Planning Board had made recommendations to

the Mayor and Council pointing out an inconsistency from the Master Plan and the Reexamination Report from 2005. The Planning Board noted that the Administrative Officer was making the decisions under ordinance as to whether certain cell towers were permitted. There were also some technical inconsistencies. Mr. Lamb feels that by providing this procedure, and clarifying that the use of the special use permit under the ordinance is a conditional use, will clarify and put some of the decision making back to the Board of Adjustment. He believes the rest can be addressed in the future to determine if the Zoning Officer should handle the rest of the review process or whether that should be moved to the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Lamb suggested that the Governing Body approve the ordinance but note the inconsistency. He believes they should also note that it has been partially addressed and that further study will follow.

Councilmember Waneck noted that Mr. Lamb's statement saves her from having to read her report. Councilmember Waneck would like the record to reflect that she stated "ditto".

Motion to close the public hearing: Councilmember Waneck

Second: Council President Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

Borough Attorney Huntington suggested that ordinance also read as follows: "the Mayor and Council having considered the comments and recommendations of the Planning Board including their notations of technical inconsistencies"

BE IT RESOLVED that an Ordinance known as #10-10 be passed on final reading and that a Notice of Adoption of said Ordinance be published in the official newspaper according to law.

Motion for final adoption: Councilmember Waneck

Second: Councilmember Quinn

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath - Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller - Yes

16. Presentation of Bills, Financial Reports and Resolutions:

Mayor Birkner advised that the following Resolutions would be enacted in one motion. Councilmembers who wished to remove any Resolution(s) to be voted upon separately, had the opportunity to do so at this time, and said Resolutions would be considered separately.

Councilmember Waneck asked the Borough Administrator to comment on Senate Bill 458. Mr.

Hoffmann reported that he attended a meeting where there were five speakers, two of which were from Westwood. Also in attendance were approximately 100 people. The general consensus was that the bill is not in the best interest of local government. A fact sheet will be coming out and will be provided to the Governing Body. The President of County League of Municipalities asked the attending Mayors to vote on a resolution opposing this bill, which they approved unanimously. Councilmember Phayre added that the Borough's resolution also incorporates the Board of Health concerns. Mr. Huntington responded that it includes the Board of Health, Collectors and Assessors.

Resolutions as Consent Agenda:

- a) **Resolution #10 - 148: Bill List & Statement of Cash**
- b) **Resolution #10 - 149: Awarding Contracts Exempt From Public Bidding – Historical Commission Consultant**
- c) **Resolution #10 - 150: Municipal Alliance Grant Application**
- d) **Resolution #10 - 151: Administrative Transfer of Overbrook County Park**
- e) **Resolution #10 - 152: Appointment to Library Board of Trustees**
- f) **Resolution #10 - 153: Authorize Bid For Garbage Truck**
- g) **Resolution #10 - 154: Authorize Bid for Stump Grinder**
- h) **Resolution #10 - 155: Authorize Various Municipal Improvements**
- i) **Resolution #10 - 156: Authorize Payment For 2009 Landfill Regulatory Compliance Tasks**
- j) **Resolution #10 - 157: Opposing Senate Bill S-458**
- k) **Resolution #10 - 158: Street Closure – Westwood Chamber of Commerce**
- l) **Resolution #10 - 159: Limo/Taxi License**
- m) **Resolution #10 - 160: Scleroderma Awareness Month 2010**
- n) **Resolution #10 - 161: Approval of Dragons Soccer Club Application to Consume Alcoholic Beverages on Public Property**
- o) **Resolution #10 – 162: Authorize Evidence Storage Shed**

Motion to adopt resolutions #10-148 through #10-162: Councilmember Phayre

Second: Councilmember Waneck

Roll Call: Councilmember Grefrath – Absent

Councilmember Phayre - Yes

Councilmember Quinn - Yes

Councilmember Sciara - Yes

Councilmember Waneck - Yes

Council President Miller – Yes

17. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilmember Sciara

Second: Councilmember Miller

Voice Vote: A voice vote was taken with all present voting in the affirmative.

The time was 9:40 pm.

Attest:

(signed) Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes, RMC, Borough Clerk

Proofed by: Denise Holmes, Deputy Clerk

2010 Budget Adoption Speech As Delivered May 18, 2010 by Councilmember William Phayre

Tonight we are holding the hearing on the 2010 Municipal Budget. Following the hearing, we expect to adopt our 2010 Budget.

For the third year in a row, we started off the year losing state aid. This year, we lost \$262,618, which brings our three year total of lost State Aid to \$448,476 --nearly a half a million dollars -- yet we were able to offer the residents a budget with an approximate 1% municipal tax increase through a total team effort.

We crafted our budget with no employee furloughs, no layoffs, and no deferred pensions. The governing body wanted to treat our municipal employees with the same respect that we owe our residents. We felt that this would assist in maintaining the valued services that our residents enjoy and appreciate and this budget does not contain an impact on services received by our residents.

It took a total team effort to craft the 2010 budget of \$16,439,651.

- ▶ For 2010, the municipal portion of the total tax bill is approximately 30%.
The municipal tax rate is 0.682.
- ▶ That means the average taxpayer will see an increase of \$27.00 or approximately 1% in their tax bill for the Municipal portion of the budget.
- ▶ The State allows the Borough to raise appropriations by 3.5% and the tax levy by 4%. Westwood's 2010 budget has been brought in under both caps.
- ▶ We only used 50% of our surplus, which leaves \$1.35 million in surplus for 2010; in case of emergencies.
- ▶ In 2002, Westwood had \$19.765 million in Long-Term Debt. Long-Term Debt has been reduced for 7 of the past eight years, although it increased one year due to the need to fund an emergency

operation, and this year's figures are still an ongoing process.

However, our budget process had a silver lining. On Wednesday, April 28, it was announced that the municipality was successful in receiving an increased bond rating to AA from both Standard and Poor's and Moody's. This will positively impact our ability to get better rates when we go out to borrow, and the rating increase came just in time to assist us with such items as the Westvale Park development project. I would like to thank Gary Vinci, Bob Hoffmann, and Ray Herr for landing this positive result for our town.

And our budget process will not be over when we actually pass this budget. We expect that pending cuts from Trenton again next year will direct that the Finance Committee begin working on the 2011 budget as soon as the County strikes the new tax rate – probably in July, and begin the 2011 budget cycle.

I once again would like to thank all of the people who have played important roles in developing this difficult budget, including:

- ▶ Our Finance team of Ray Herr, Stephanie Stokes and Gloria Seidel.
- ▶ Our Finance Committee with Councilman Bill Phayre, Mayor John Birkner, BA Bob Hoffmann, and CFO Ray Herr.
- ▶ Gary Vinci, our specialist Liz Shick, and everyone working for our benefit at our Auditor - Lerch, Vinci and Higgins.
- ▶ The Department Heads and municipal staff who towed the line and made some very informed and necessary budget reductions within their groups.
- ▶ And the entire governing body, who was called upon several times to meet for our now annual line-by-line budget review.

Debt Levels

2002	\$19.765 million
2003	\$19.630
2004	\$19.375
2005	\$19.098
2006	\$18.925
2007	\$18,856,203
2008	\$18,810,981
2009	\$19,558,000 *

* estimate

NOTE: Increase due to expenditure to repair a break in a sewer pipe in the Pascack Brook, potentially threatening our water supply. We expect not to use the entire allocation and

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remove money from the Debt Level this fall.